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Amendment After Final and Request For Reconsideration
Attorney Docket No. S63.2H-12015-US01

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Amendments To The Claims:

Status of the Claims

Claim 1. (*Withdrawn*) A stent for use in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, wherein the stent comprises:

a radially expandable generally cylindrical stent body having proximal and distal opposing ends with a body wall having a surface extending therebetween, the surface having a geometrical configuration defining a first pattern, said first pattern having first pattern struts and connectors arranged in a predetermined configuration; and

a branch portion comprised of a second pattern, wherein said branch portion is at least partially detachable from said stent body.

Claim 2. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 1, wherein said second pattern is configured according to said first pattern having at least one absent connector.

Claim 3. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 2, wherein said at least one connector is a plurality of connectors.

Claim 4. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 1, wherein said second pattern has second pattern struts, and wherein said second pattern struts are more densely packed than said first pattern struts.

Claim 5. (*Cancelled*)

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) ~~The stent of claim 5;~~ A stent for implantation in a bifurcated body lumen having a main branch and a side branch, wherein the stent comprises:

a tubular body having an opening with a proximal side and a distal side and a distal end and a proximal end, the wherein said tubular body comprises a first pattern of rows of struts and connectors, wherein said the rows of struts are connected to each other by said connectors;

a branch portion positioned adjacent to the opening between said distal end and said proximal end of said tubular body,

wherein in a first configuration said branch portion is flush with said tubular body and in a second configuration said branch portion is extended outward with respect to the tubular body and in which the branch portion extends away from both the proximal side and the distal side of

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the opening.

Claim 7. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 6, wherein said branch portion comprises a second pattern of rows of struts and connectors, wherein said second pattern of rows of struts and connectors has a different configuration than said first pattern of rows of struts and connectors.

Claim 8. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 7, wherein said different configuration includes different strut lengths.

Claim 9. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 7, wherein said different configuration includes at least one row having a different strut density.

Claim 10. (*Withdrawn*) A stent for placement at a vessel bifurcation, wherein the stent comprises:

an alternating series of rows of struts connected by rows of connectors configured in a tubular structure; and

a branch access opening in the tubular structure, said branch access opening characterized by one of said rows of connectors having at least one absent connector.

Claim 11. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 10, wherein said at least one absent connector comprises a plurality of absent connectors.

Claim 12. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 10, further comprising a branch portion adjacent to said branch access opening.

Claim 13. (*Withdrawn*) The stent of claim 12, wherein said branch portion comprises a geometrical configuration which is configured to expand independently of said tubular structure.

Claim 14. (*Withdrawn*) A stent system for placement in a bifurcated body lumen, the system comprising:

a catheter for insertion into said body lumen;

a balloon positioned on said catheter; and

a stent positioned on said balloon, said stent comprising a body wall having proximal and distal opposing ends with a surface extending therebetween, the surface having a geometrical configuration defining a first pattern, said first pattern having first pattern struts and connectors arranged in a predetermined configuration, and a branch portion having a geometrical configuration defining a second pattern, wherein said branch portion is at least partially detached from said surface.

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Claim 15. (*Withdrawn*) The system of claim 14, wherein said balloon has a protruding portion in the vicinity of said branch portion for expanding said branch portion into a branch vessel.

Claim 16. (*Withdrawn*) The system of claim 14, further comprising a side sheath positioned alongside said catheter, wherein said side sheath is positioned through said branch portion, thereby detaching it from said surface.

Claim 17. (*Withdrawn*) The system of claim 16, wherein said side sheath further comprises a second balloon for expansion of said branch portion.

Claim 18. (*Withdrawn*) A method of stenting a vessel bifurcation, the method comprising:
providing a stent system for placement in a bifurcated body lumen, wherein the system includes a catheter for insertion into the vessel, a balloon positioned on said catheter, and a stent positioned on said balloon, said stent comprising a body wall having a surface extending therebetween, the surface being comprised of a first pattern, said first pattern having first pattern struts and connectors arranged in a particular configuration, and a branch portion comprised of a second pattern, wherein said branch portion is at least partially detached from said surface;
advancing said stent system into a main vessel until the stent system is just proximal to the bifurcation;

expanding said balloon so as to expand said stent body wall; and

expanding said branch portion so that said branch portion extends into the branch vessel.

Claim 19. (*Currently Amended*) ~~A bifurcation stent,~~ The stent of claim 6 in which
~~comprising:~~

~~a tubular member having an inner diameter and an outer diameter defining a wall therebetween, the wall having a geometrical configuration defining a pattern; and~~

~~an expandable~~ the branch portion further comprises structure formed in the wall of the
~~tubular member and interrupting the wall pattern, the expandable branch structure having a first ring connected by a first ring connector to the tubular member body and a second ring connected by second ring connector to the first ring, when in the first configuration the first ring being is concentric with the second ring, and when in the first configuration the first and second rings define defining ring patterns each of which is a complete circuit extending from a first side of the first or second ring connector respectively to the second side of the same respective ring~~

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connector,

~~wherein the first ring and the second ring are movable from an unexpanded configuration to an expanded configuration, when in the first unexpanded configuration the first and second rings are flush with the tubular body disposed along the wall and when in the second expanded configuration the first and second rings extend outwardly from the tubular body member.~~

Claim 20. *(Currently Amended)* The stent according to claim 19, wherein the tubular body member has a longitudinal axis and the expandable branch portion structure is disposed substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis in the second expanded configuration.

Claim 21. *(Withdrawn)* The stent according to claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises a plurality of undulating rings disposed along the longitudinal axis and the undulating rings are connected by connectors.

Claim 22. *(Withdrawn)* The stent according to claim 21, wherein the first and second rings have a common axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis in the unexpanded configuration.

Claim 23. *(Currently Amended)* The stent according to claim 19, wherein the branch portion structure includes a support ring.

Claim 24. *(Original)* The stent according to claim 23, wherein the support ring is a continuous loop.

Claim 25. *(Withdrawn)* The stent according to claim 23, wherein the support ring comprises a discontinuous portion.

Claim 26. *(Cancelled)*

Claim 27. *(Withdrawn)* The stent of claim 26 where said branch portion is created by removing one or more of the periodic connections between the coiled struts.

Claim 28. *(Withdrawn)* The stent of claim 26 where said branch portion is created by adding a geometric structure of coiled struts that forms one or more circles when expanded.

Claim 29. *(Withdrawn)* The stent of claim 26 where said branch portion is created by adding a geometric structure of coiled struts that forms one or more ovals when expanded.